



ALEXANDRIA:

SATURDAY MORNING, OCTOBER 13, 1860.

WE hope that the result of the state elections in Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Indiana, and the high hopes excited thereby in the ranks of the Northern Republican party, will not affect adversely in the slightest degree, the zeal, energy, and previous determination of the friends of Bell and Everett, whatever influence it may have upon other parties. From the beginning of the present contest, the Constitutional Union party, and all those who support its candidates, took their stand in defence of the Union, the Constitution, and the Laws, and resolved to use their best efforts to overthrow Sectionalism and Disunionism, and, if possible, to restore the government to the condition it was in under our earlier Presidents, and before the present unhappy strife and contention had interrupted our peace and harmony. Every thing that has transpired since then, has only contributed to show them that their course was a noble and patriotic one, and ought to be sustained by the conservative people of the country;—nor should the unfortunate verdict just rendered in three great states, operate to produce any other resolution than that of perseverance in the maintenance of principle and the discharge of duty. Come, weal, come woe, they know that they are right, and are acting for their country, and in their country's behalf. Other parties, divided, distracted, and ruined, are powerless in this great contest, to stem the torrent of Republicanism at the North. A cordial union upon the Constitutional Platform, and for the Union Constitutional candidates, could accomplish, we believe, even yet, the defeat of Lincoln. At any rate, we repeat, the path of duty is plain to those who think with us on political subjects, and it should be trod with unflinching steps, and with a proud consciousness that though it may not lead to victory, by pursuing its direction, we best subserve the true interests and solid happiness of the people, and contribute to the perpetuity of our institutions.

MR. YANCEY'S speech at New York, is reported to have been far less objectionable, in spirit and in matter, than many supposed it would be—the only wonder now being that he has suddenly subsided from an ultra disunionist, to merely a states-rights man, declaring his wish to preserve the Union, and his intention to act, even in the event of Lincoln's election, only in accordance with the determination and laws of his own State. He is said to have made a favorable impression upon his hearers. His views were presented in such a form, that the majority of his political friends did not express any dissent. Had he always maintained the position he now occupies in his speeches, he would have been spared much of the censure which has been cast upon him, and many harsh remarks—such for instance as were contained in some sentences of a review of his political record, which we copied in yesterday's Gazette, and which were not to our taste, or in accordance with our treatment of politicians to whom we are most decidedly opposed. If Mr. Yancey has really and truly modified his former position, he should have the benefit of his change of views. We do not believe, however, that he has retracted, formally, any of the letters or speeches he used to make on the Disunion question, and in so far as these are endorsed by any portion of any party, they must still be regarded as proper subjects for condemnation by all who think them mischievous and dangerous. It is not because Mr. Yancey, as an individual, maintained the propriety of a dissolution of the Union, but because his followers endorse that platform, and make it the ground of political action, that they, and it, meet with so much censure, and are so much rebuked.

DE BOW'S Review states that Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Michigan, New York, New Jersey, Vermont, Rhode Island, and Wisconsin, have all passed laws designed to obstruct the operation of the fugitive slave law—and some of their laws directly against the provisions of the law of Congress. This it is, which justly incenses the South, which continually affords food for discontent, and which is so disreputable, and *repulsive*, in the states concerned.

MR. JOHN SHIDELL, of Louisiana, in his address to the people of that state, says, a high compliment to Mr. Bell, but seems to think he is too amiable. He concedes him intelligence, patriotism, and all that is most to be desired in the character of a man—but he is too "conciliatory."

They are organizing a "Wide Awake Club" in Baltimore. The result of the recent election, it is said, has increased the Republican ranks in that city! The Republicans in Washington city, too, are said to have had some accessions this week!

Blondin continues to "delight" the spectators of his foolish feats, by walking on ropes stretched over chasms, "his feet in bushel baskets and his body bound with chains."

The Richmond Dispatch indignantly denies the reports in the New York papers, setting forth that the Prince was grossly insulted at the capital of Virginia.

The remains of the late Gov. Willard, of Indiana, were interred at New Albany, on the 10th, with civil and military honors.

The Washington States and Union chronicles the results of the late elections, as the "Triumphs of the Administration."

The National Intelligencer speaking of the result of the recent elections in Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Indiana, says that "enough is already known to confirm the truth of the statement made by a Philadelphia contemporary, when it says, after recording the result in that state, that the reign of Democracy at the North, as well as at the South, has ended, and that 'any future organization in opposition to the Republicans must be composed of different materials and controlled by different principles.' A party which, in each of its two divisions, expends its strength in the work of self-destruction cannot expect to thrive on the mere magic of a name held in common between its belligerent wings."

The Philadelphia Evening Journal, a Bell and Everett paper, invites the attention of Southern readers to the fact that the political sentiment which has just predominated in Pennsylvania is not the "Republicanism" which prevails in New England and in the Northwest. Economical questions growing out of the "tariff" rather than the "slavery" question controlled the result. The same paper expresses the opinion that Mr. Bell, from his known views upon the former of these questions, could carry the State against Mr. Lincoln if the friends of both Mr. Breckinridge and Mr. Douglas would withdraw their electoral tickets.

The New York Commercial says, that Ericsson's Caloric Engine is fast superseding the steam engine in situations where a motive power, of but trifling expense, is required. The employment of caloric instead of steam requires no engineer to regulate or attend the machinery, and the agent is entirely inoperative. Wherever it has been used it has given universal satisfaction, and for stationary engines is probably unsurpassed. Among publishers the caloric engine has become a great favorite, and now there are more than forty daily papers in the United States printed by means of this description of engine.

At Philadelphia, the papers say, the Prince expressed no desire to visit Independence Hall, and it was regarded as indelicate to invite him thither, on account of the historical associations connected with the building as the place of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. The Prince appeared to be a young gentleman not at all of a curious turn of mind. He does not seem to care much about seeing anything.—He was quite listless and passive at Mount Vernon. Probably he is jugged out.

Gov. Houston recently made a speech in Austin, Texas, against Secession and Disunion. It is said the people were with him."

SHIPPING LAWS.—The New York Chamber of Commerce held a special meeting on Wednesday, which was devoted to a conference with Mr. Lindsay, M. P., during which they discussed the principal topics embraced in the address of Mr. Lindsay on Tuesday evening. At the conclusion of the discussion the following recommendations were adopted:—

1st. *Collisions at Sea*.—The Committee agreed that recommendations be made to Congress to propose an international law to provide for uniform penalties applicable to British and American ships in both countries, or in the Courts of both.

2d. *Lights at Sea*.—The Committee agreed that recommendations be made to Congress to adopt a law requiring our ships to carry lights as demanded by the English law.

3d. *Crimes at Sea*.—The Committee recommended that the Chamber of Commerce coincide with Mr. Lindsay in regard to the assimilation of the laws, and suggest the establishment of shipping offices in the leading ports.

4th. *Registration of Ships*.—The Committee adopt the propriety of debate as to the reciprocity of registration of ships—that foreign ships may be registered in the United States—as England allows to foreign ships in her ports.

The Committee also coincide with Mr. Lindsay in opening a debate on the coasting trade, generally.

5th. *Coasting Trade*.—It will give English ships the privilege of coasting between Atlantic ports and Pacific ports. England by her law having allowed foreign ships to ply between any home ports and colonial ports all over the world, and from one colony to another.

The suggestion was made, that should the United States concede her coasting trade, England would, no doubt, in return relinquish her light dues, local charges, passing tolls, and compulsory pilotage—and might open her coasting colonial trade on the lakes, &c.

SUGAR CROP.—The terrible storm of yesterday and the night before is another, and the crowning disaster which the staple production of lower Louisiana has sustained this season. Starting with an almost entirely destroyed stubble, by the bad winter, our cane crop next encountered an extraordinary drought, which had dwarfed and debilitated the plant cane to a degree that a few weeks ago produced a general despondency among the planters. In the upper regions of the Sugar district, and on the high lands generally, there has been little more cane produced than will be sufficient for planting next year. Many very large plantations will not start their mills this season, but will prudently save their cane for next year's planting.—Previous to the storm of yesterday, a very successful cultivator estimated the probable total crop at 150,000 hhds., against 221,000 of last year, which was a short season. Even this estimate will be subject to large reduction by the great storm, provided it has extended through the cane district. We can easily remember so severe and so long continued a hurricane in this State. The effects on the cane which has attained its maturity will be exceedingly disastrous, especially if it should be followed by warm weather. Having always aimed at, and generally succeeded in, giving our readers reliable intelligence in regard to Sugar prospects, we feel quite safe in our present estimates of the crop of this season at not more than 150,000 hhds.—N. O. Delta of the 3d.

FROM TEXAS ISLAND.—By the arrival of the bark George Leslie, Bradbury, at New York, we have accounts from Turks Island to the 20th ult. The Royal Standard of the 22d says:—"We have had a brisk demand for salt this week, which has occasioned an advance in the price and an unusual firmness on the part of holders. The quantity on hand, compared with the corresponding period last year, is very small, and at present there is every probability that the whole of our crop will have been shipped by the end of November. Price 8c. to 10c. export duty 1c."

SHIPWRECKED SAILORS AT SAVANNAH.—The Savannah Republican of the 1st, says:—"The British bark Java arrived off Tybee, and sailed for Duboy, Saturday last. Pilot boat Lamar took off and brought to the city the mate and fifteen of the crew of the American ship Evelyn, before reported as foundered at sea, 260 miles northwest of Madeira. The officers and crew were sent home by the American Consul at Tenerife. They report of having been kindly treated on board the Java."

NEWS OF THE DAY.

"To show the very age and body of the times."

Capt. John Wilson, the gallant commander of the brig Minnie Schiffer, who rescued the five hundred and ninety-one souls from the burning steamship *Connaught*, is said to be a native of Baltimore, his wife residing in New Orleans, where he makes his home when not at sea. He is about 50 years of age, and is distinguished for his urbanity and great kindness of character. All the rescued passengers, including Mr. Newman, the American consul at St. Johns, speak in terms of great admiration of the heroic conduct of Captain Wilson. When the different boats' crews had become exhausted by their fatiguing labors in rescuing the passengers, or were paralyzed with dread of the blazing ship, and the danger of approaching her, he encouraged the desponding seamen, and urged them to continue their humane efforts. The Minnie Schiffer is named after a child of the owner.

It is reliably ascertained that the late action of the Spanish commodore was suspended, and the squadron withdrawn to Havana in consequence of the pressing representations of Spanish subjects in Vera Cruz, through the French consul, acting as Spanish consul to the Capt. General of Cuba. A bombardment, they stated, would not only destroy their property, but peril their lives. No further hostile demonstration will be made in the absence of advice from Madrid. The commander of our Gulf squadron is not left to his own discretion, but he will act under advice of Minister McLane, in the event of a Spanish bombardment of Vera Cruz.

We have dates from Oregon to the 25th ultimo. The State Senate, although without a quorum, went into convention with the House on the 20th, for the election of a U. S. Senator. Twenty unsuccessful ballots were had, after which the House adjourned sine die, but the Senate, although not organized refused to adjourn. Subsequently a portion of the members of the House reassembled and proceeded to business. It was rumored that the six absent or runaway Senators had returned and taken their seats. The question now, however, is whether the House did really adjourn sine die.

At St. Louis, on the 17th, L. C. Stoughton, convicted of counterfeiting, was sentenced to the penitentiary for eight years. By accident, a letter intended for him got into the box of Mr. Slaughter. Without examining the superscription Mr. S. opened the letter and found that it contained a counterfeit five on the Farmers' Bank of Two Rivers, Wisconsin, with the explanation: "Try again: such work as this would hang a nigger. Spell Wisconsin with a C."

A meeting was recently held by the citizens of Dames Quarter, Rock Creek, and Deal's Island, Somerset county, Md., to appoint delegates to a proposed system's convention to be held in Baltimore, as suggested by the meeting held by the citizens of St. Mary's and Prince George's counties. The object of the convention is to take into consideration the law of the last Legislature concerning unclaimed oyster lands.

The steamer *Connaught* was built with water-tight compartments, and with an iron hull, precautions adopted to secure her from fire and water. Yet she sprung a leak, and was destroyed by fire, showing that what are deemed the best securities are sometimes of no avail. The fire, as is supposed, was caused by spontaneous combustion among the soft coals which are used in English steamers. But what caused the leak?

The factory in Ida Hill, near Troy, N. Y., belonging to the estate of Benj. Marshall, occupied by various parties in the manufacture of hosiery, netting, &c., was burnt on Thursday. Loss on the building \$14,000, insured. Loss of the occupants is estimated at \$60,000, on which there was about \$40,000 insurance. The fire originated by an accident. Two hundred hands are thrown out of employment in consequence of the disaster.

Col. Hugh Forbes, whose name figured so extensively in the papers during the John Brown excitement, and who latterly has been in the employ of Garibaldi as commander of Mezzana, in Sicily, is said to be out of office once more. He was found to be incompetent and impracticable.

The proposals for a United States loan of ten millions, at a rate of interest not exceeding six per cent., will no doubt elicit many favorable offers. The bids are to be opened on the 20th inst. We shall see then that there is no money panic in consequence of political agitation.

John Fitzgerald, a convict in the Charlestown State Prison, on Thursday, stabbed George J. Riggs, Charles Belmont and John White, his fellow prisoners, wounding them seriously, and slightly wounding several others before he was secured. There is no known cause for the act.

An arrival at Boston reports that the South Shore, with a cargo of Africans from Key West, arrived at Monrovia on the 30th of August. One hundred and eight negroes died on the passage from diseases contracted before and during their stay at Key West.

There is not the slightest foundation for the statement so widely published that Captain Jarvis interfered in the affair which took place some weeks ago between the captain of the Spanish brig *Berenguela* and the *Juarez* government.

The New Orleans Delta of Thursday week says that one broker of that city bought on the day previous 10,000 bales of cotton, valued at \$750,000. This great speculation is based upon the late storm in the South, which it is believed will produce short crops.

John Brice, esq., a defender of Baltimore in 1814, died at Annapolis on the 5th inst.—

The mother of the deceased was a daughter of Thomas Jennings, esq., Attorney General of the then Province of Maryland.

Potato rot is doing serious injury in the neighborhood of Buffalo, New York. Some farmers have lost almost their whole crop.—In Worcester county, Mass., there are considerable losses from the same cause.

Jenkins telegraphed from Philadelphia to one of the New York papers on Tuesday night the agreeable intelligence that "the Prince is fast asleep."

Paul Morphy and Louis Paulsen are at the club-room in New York daily. Mr. Paulsen has challenged Mr. Morphy to a friendly contest, but the former declines.

At Columbus, October 10th, a convention of Western Railroad men met for the purpose of agreeing upon uniform and remunerative rates for eastern bound freight.

The case of Capt. Graves and others vs. Steamer St. Nicholas and owners has been decided against the steamer. The damages, it is said, will amount to \$7,000 and upwards.

At Boston, Oct. 10, Wm. J. Holden 30 years old, lately from California, shot himself dead on the Common. Poverty was the cause of the act.

A man giving the name of J. O. Beattie has been arrested in Charleston, S. C., on "suspicion of being an abolition incendiary."

The Jockey Club Races over the Leonardtown, Md., course this season will commence on Thursday, the 15th of November next.

The Boston Transcript says:—"It is proposed to bring to this city the immense building recently erected at Montreal for the great hall to the Prince of Wales, and erect the same on the Agricultural Grounds at the Neck, to be used for Promenade Concerts the present fall, and to be converted into a Grand Skating Palace in the winter. Workmen, we understand, are now engaged in taking down the immense building for transportation, and application has been made to the city government for a lease of the land for that enterprise."

The Duke of Newcastle, who attends the Prince of Wales in his early manhood, when Earl of Lincoln married, Lady Susan Harriet, sister of the Duke of Hamilton and Brandon. But the instant one took it into her head one day to elope with a handsome officer of the Guards, leaving children, husband, and the prospective rank of a Duchess in her infatuation. Lord Lincoln obtained a divorce, and plunged more actively than ever into political life, and has ever since remained single, dividing his affection between his country and his children.

A perfect torrent of rain fell in the vicinity of Broad Tree Tunnel, Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, on last Monday. There was three feet of water on the Tunnel. The engine of the express train plunged through the water and arrived safely at Wheeling.—The accommodation train was detained.—A considerable wash was reported at Cheat River, and the water in the Ohio is said to have raised to eight feet.

The last Legislature of New York passed a law that no person having a husband, wife, child, or parent, shall, by will, give more than one-half of his property to any benevolent, charitable, literary, scientific, religious, or missionary society, association or corporation in trust or otherwise. Any gift of more than one-half is void as to the excess above one-half.

All doubts respecting the effects of last Summer's drought in Kansas are gradually disappearing. That territory was rained throughout the whole season, and except in particular localities, the fields have been unproductive. The settlers are in many instances removing from it, or looking forward to the all but certain prospect of wheat.

At St. Louis, Oct. 11, a destructive fire occurred in Allen's iron works, in the South part of that city. It was caused by the furnace wall giving way. Loss \$25,000 to \$30,000. Nearly two hundred laborers are thrown out of employment.

A midshipman at the Naval Academy has been detected in the larceny of several gold watches and a considerable sum of money. We do not know what disposition has been made of the offender.

VIRGINIA NEWS.

SYNDICATE OF VIRGINIA, O. S.—In Syndic, in session, in Lynchburg, on Thursday, resolutions from Presbyteries of Baltimore, with reference to the appointment of Chaplains to the U. S. Army and Navy and Military Schools, were presented, read and referred to committee. These resolutions gave the statistics, showing that a very large majority of the Chaplains were ministers of the Episcopal Church, and requested that the subject might be brought to the notice of the government and public generally, in order that this inequality might be corrected.

Syndic, by a vote of 79 to 33, decided to meet in Petersburg, on the 16th day of October, 1861. (Harrisburg was in nomination.)

Rev. Wm. T. Richardson, chairman of the Committee of State of the Church, reported that some progress had been made in the Evangelical labors of the Church, but that great destitution existed: a large proportion of the counties on the borders of the Syndic were still destitute of Churches of their denomination: the report closed with an appeal to greater exertion in this important matter.

The report was received and the following resolution offered, which elicited several interesting speeches.

Resolved, That the attention of the Presbyteries be earnestly called to the recommendation of Syndic at its meeting at Lewisburg on the subject of Evangelical labor, and that they be required to report thereon to Syndic at its next meeting.

FIRE IN BROCK'S GAP.—The Storehouse in Brock's Gap, belonging to Derrick Penneybacker, Esq., was consumed by fire on Monday night of last week. There were no goods in the store, but Mr. Penneybacker's accounts, &c., &c., were about \$180,000. The loss of leather and shoemaker's tools, belonging to Capt. Geo. W. Fick, were consumed. There was \$25,000 in cash stolen, and some \$40,000 to \$50,000 worth of bonds and accounts burned, but Mr. P. does not expect to lose more than \$200 or \$300 by the loss of these evidences of debt. The fire was doubtless the work of some vile scamp, who is too mean and base to live in the midst of the good people of Brock's Gap.—Rockingham Register.

A new town, to be called "Virginia city," has been laid out near Portsmouth, Va., by an organized company, with the view of establishing cotton mills, woolen factories and iron works. The Norfolk Argus says: "Virginia city," as laid out, lies inside of the world-renowned harbor of Norfolk, in the State of Virginia, adjoining the United States navy yard and the city of Portsmouth, and extending for three miles along the harbor, between the Suburbs and R. R. R. and the Norfolk and P. R. R. and the Dismal Swamp and Albemarle and Chesapeake canals, with the best harbor on the Atlantic Ocean."

The Commissioners appointed under a law of the Virginia Legislature, to procure arms for the better defense of the State, have been in correspondence with the manufacturers of the Enfield Rifle, in England, and been offered 5,000 of that arm at a price nearly sixty-five shillings. British, for each piece. They have written to say that they will take 2,500 at that price.

The Charlottesville Review says:—"On Monday last a negro man, belonging to Mrs. Craven while at work on the New Baptist Institute, now being erected in this place, was killed by the falling of the scaffold."

On the same day a man fell from the wall of the new Methodist Church and was badly, though not fatally, injured."

George McMillen, who was stabbed at Belair, near Wheeling, Va., a few days ago, by Henry Foster, has since died. Foster is in jail.

A tin box, containing \$500 in counterfeit notes on the Northwestern Bank of Virginia, was found concealed in a stable at Wheeling, on the 5th inst.

The fair of the Rappahannock Society, commenced at Fredericksburg, Va., on the 17th inst.—Wednesday next.

Rev. W. W. Hammersley, a minister of O. S. Presbyterian Church, died in Charlotte county, Va., on the 7th inst.

The estate of John P. Richmond, Va., by the new census, is 37,998, an increase of 10,298 since 1850.

Philip Bush Streit, an eminent lawyer of Hampshire county, Va., died on Tuesday.

Mr. Willie Ridlick, of Gates county, N. C., sold to a Southern planter on the 5th inst., 85 slaves for \$85,000. Payment to be made in six annual installments, with interest.

A meeting of the friends of Breckinridge and Lane was held in Luray on Tuesday last. Messrs. R. M. T. Hunter and Wm. Smith addressed the assemblage.

POLITICAL.

Speech of Ex-Gov. Francis Thomas, of Md. [EXTRACTS.]

We take today from the Lynchburg Virginian the speech of Ex-Governor Thomas, of Maryland. The Piedmont Independent says of Mr. Thomas: "It should be remembered that Gov. Thomas, though at one time the leading spirit in government affairs in the Democratic party, has lived in almost absolute retirement for some ten years, and only consented to give his views upon the questions that now agitate the country merely to gratify his friends in this community."

THE PRESIDENTIAL QUESTION.—Passing to the consideration of the subject of which he was expected to speak, he said too much importance was attached to the Presidential question. It was magnified by those who expected to profit, personally, by its result, and by those who wickedly designed to make its result in one event a pretext for attempting what they had been conspiring to accomplish for more than a quarter of a century. Even if Mr. Lincoln should be, unfortunately for the country, elected, there would be no justification for that degree of apprehension concerning our slavery institutions which an organized party in the South, of whom he intended to speak, hoped to use for their monstrous purposes. The government were not consolidated governments. The powers of government in this country, we all knew, were not consolidated, as they are in Europe, in the hands of individual officers. No President of the United States can carry into effect his own individual wishes.

We have State governments—we have a House of Representatives and Senate—we have a Judiciary, who may check; we have officers of the Army and Navy, who may refuse to obey a traitorous Chief Magistrate. The President can act only through officers appointed by him, and we all know no Secretary of War, no Postmaster General, no head of a department or of a bureau, no Marshal or other important officer of the Government could be commissioned without the consent of the United States Senate. And as the Senate was now, and would be for four years, well informed man could seriously believe that the election of one of the Presidential candidates could to such a degree endanger a popular institution as to justify rebellion against the Government. It was in the power of the Senate of the United States, by rejecting improper nominations of a Chief Magistrate, to deprive him of all power to carry into effect any traitorous designs he may have, and make his election a perfect nullity.

The election of Mr. Lincoln, in the present state of feeling in the South, wickedly excited, and in its probable effect on a certain class of ignorant population in the South, would be a great calamity, for which Southern men, who had by their conduct made such an election probable, ought to be universally condemned as wicked disturbers of the public peace. But for the unfortunate policy of the National Administration in urging upon Congress the sanction of those abominable proceedings that produced the Lecompton Constitution, and the wicked conduct of the Democratic party in the Secessionists at Charleston and Baltimore, there would not be the slightest cause at this moment to fear any danger to our institutions from the election of the Republican candidate for the Presidency.

REPEAL OF THE MISSOURI COMPROMISE.—Gov. Thomas spoke of the repeal of the Missouri Compromise line as a blunder. It had been established by Mr. Monroe's administration, when Mr. Crawford and Mr. Calhoun were members of the Cabinet.—The Southern Senators and Representatives in Congress had, a few years ago, voted to amend it, and the present Congress would have been fortunate for the country if, instead of the Missouri line, the authors of the Compromise of 1820 had adopted the Territorial policy of which Mr. Douglas is the champion, and had given to the people of all the Territories of the United States, then held or afterwards to be acquired, the power to establish for themselves their domestic institutions, subject to that control which the Constitution of the United States, to be construed by the Supreme Court of the United States imposes.

THE LECOMPTON CONSTITUTION.—From this overthrow the party recovered and could not elect the present Chief Magistrate, and under the influence of the decision in *Dred Scott's* case, was growing daily in strength at the commencement of Mr. Buchanan's administration, when most unfortunately, that difference of opinion concerning the Lecompton Constitution between the President and Judge Douglas occurred, which must be considered one of the principal causes of the present schism in the Democratic party. It was not very pleasant to speak of this difficulty. The private and public character of the President was of a very high order. But it must be said that in recommending the admission of Kansas under the Lecompton Constitution he made a most serious mistake.

The circumstances under which that Constitution was adopted were now well understood, and this being the case, the resistance of Judge Douglas to that infamous measure, so far from justifying the opposition to him of Mr. Buchanan's friends, entitled him to the gratitude of every member of the Democratic party. Every member of the Convention by which it was adopted met at a town of that name in Kansas—was never accepted by the people of Kansas. It contained a clause establishing slavery in Kansas, when an overwhelming majority of the people of that Territory were hostile to the institution. It had been adopted through the agency of large bodies of men who marched from Missouri into Kansas for the purpose of fixing this Constitution upon an unwilling people—and it would have been a disgrace to the civilization of the age if by such means any form of government could be established for a free people.

MR. BELL AND POLITICAL PLATFORMS.—After expressing the opinion that the Kansas policy of the Administration had its origin in the belief that the approval by Congress of the Lecompton Constitution was necessary to quiet Southern excitement on the slavery question, Gov. Thomas gave his reasons for believing that Mr. Bell, with whom he had been well acquainted many years ago in Congress, would prove himself to be, in the event of his election, eminently qualified for the discharge of the duties imposed upon the Chief Magistrate. The refusal of the Convention that nominated Mr. Bell to construct a platform was an objection to him unworthy of consideration.—It was difficult to conceive of a more unprofitable employment than that of constructing platforms for the adoption of party conventions. Papers of that character were generally prepared by those who understood how to use words of double meaning, so that it was easy to give to the resolutions adopted more than one construction.

In 1829, resolutions declaratory of the opinions of the Democratic party on the subject of slavery were adopted by the Convention that nominated Mr. Van Buren for the Presidency. A Democratic member of Congress at that time, from Georgia, introduced one of these resolutions into the House of Representatives, and moved its adoption, expecting that every Whig member from the North would vote against it; and in that event the journal could be used to satisfy the people of the South that the Whigs of that section were associated politically with Northern men who were unopposed on the slavery question. The yeas and nays

were called upon the resolution, and, much to the astonishment of the mover every Whig member of the House voted in the affirmative. Mr. Adams then first called, first answered him, and then laughed heartily at the failure of the mover, perceiving that the resolution had been drawn so that members of the Democratic Convention might conceal, not disclose their opinions. Mr. Bell's platform was to be found in his past life and conduct—and in the past conduct of candidates sensible men would always look when they desired to find the means to judge as to the future conduct of all who sought public station.

This platform making had been the death of the Democratic party. Voluminous commentaries upon the Cincinnati platform, upon Mr. Davis' resolutions in the Senate, upon the majority and minority platforms at Charleston, and upon the platforms of the Democratic and of the seceding conventions of Baltimore have been made, and yet in every section of the United States at this moment Democrats were wrangling and tangle in their vain attempts to get from these platforms, distinguished for their luminous distribution of material, a sensible rule of public conduct. It was surprising that no one had become crazy of those who had read all the Democratic platforms, with the commentaries thereon, which were published from time to time during the last five and twenty years, to make known to the public the opinions of the Democratic party on the slavery question.

THE REPEAL OF THE DISUNIONISTS.—It cannot be doubted that a large majority of our Northern fellow-citizens are now loyal to the constitutional rights of the South, and would abide by decisions of the United States Courts, and cursed be the citizens of a Southern State that would not be equally loyal to the rights of his neighbors and friends. In such a state of public feeling as now exists, when threats against our glorious Union are ringing in our ears, no threats uttered alone by mad fanatics of the North, but by grave Senators and Governors of States, and other leading statesmen of the South, would it be wise and prudent for the people of Maryland and Virginia to follow the lead—under the advice, and support the favorite candidate for the Presidency of Senator Davis, of Mississippi, of Mr. Yancey, of Alabama, and Mr. Rhet, of South Carolina—every one of whom have declared that the Union ought to be dissolved if the Republican candidate for the Presidency be elected?

Would the people of Maryland and Virginia adhere to Mr. Breckinridge, when his leading supporters declare that in the event of Mr. Lincoln's election they will favor a dissolution of the Union, when it is obvious that by continuing to be a candidate Mr. Breckinridge assists to defeat the candidate of a majority of the Democratic party, and thus contributes to bring about a result which his own friends say will justify an assault upon the integrity of the Union. In a speech, delivered at Jackson, Mississippi, Senator Davis has declared "if an Abolitionist should be chosen President of the United States, I will state my own position to be that such a result would be a species of revolution by which the purposes of the government would be destroyed, and the observance of its mere forms entered to no respect. In that event, in such manner as should be most expedient, I should deem it my duty to provide for your safety outside the Union."

In a speech delivered at Montgomery, in Alabama, in 1858, Mr. Yancey declared that "a unity of climate, a unity of soil, a unity of production, and a unity of social relations" constituted that unit "which alone can be the basis of a successful and permanent government." And as we all know that there are not these unities but varieties of soil, climate and productions, and of the social relations under our present Government of the United States, Mr. Yancey has, in effect, declared that this Government ought not, in his judgment, to exist. This being Mr. Yancey's opinion in June, 1858, he wrote that well known letter, which has been published throughout the country, in which he says let us use our God-given faculties, and let us see if we can do better than the Government of safety all over the Southern States (and it is only in them that we can hope for any effective movement), and "fire the Southern heart—instruct the Southern mind—give courage to each other, and at the proper moment, by one organized, concerted action, we can precipitate the Cotton States into a revolution," and advises his friends to keep up their old party relations on all other questions, but still to hold the Southern issue paramount, and influence parties, legislatures and statesmen.

This same gentleman, in a speech delivered a few days ago at Washington city, openly, frankly, proclaimed that he was not a party man, and yet he was now travelling from place to place, addressing Democratic meetings, urging such a man, to have sought meetings in the Democratic Convention, which more than any other member, he assented to destroy, and is, we have a right to believe, now engaged, not in harmonizing, but in distracting and defeating that party which stood like a lion in the path of that disunion of which he is the champion? Thus pursuing the very course he has in his letter advised his friends to take, holding a dissolution of the Union paramount to all other objects.

Mr. Rhet, of South Carolina, soon after Mr. Buchanan's selection said, "all true statesmen in the South consists in forming a compact, and a grand event so as to bring about a dissolution of a Southern Confederacy." These quotations were made under no feeling of personal disrespect for the authors of such declarations. These gentlemen have a right to form and express such opinions, and no doubt they are, when engaged thus, in forming combinations and shaping events so as to fire the Southern heart, precipitate the Cotton States into revolution, and bring about the establishment of a Southern Confederacy, satisfied in all their own hearts and minds that this is, in all respects, a proceeding wise, patriotic, and humane. And in the face of such opinions, coming as they did from statesmen of acknowledged high character, of wide spread influence, and of stern purposes, the speaker standing as he had ever done, in awe of no human intellect, of no human combinations would, and hundreds of thousands of brave men of Maryland and Virginia, would also echo that patriotic sentiment which came from the heart of a glorious old companion in arms of Washington:

"Frenzied be the head that would plot to dismember, and paralyzed be the arm that would not draw to defend our Union."

The election of members of the Legislature of South Carolina, and for members of Congress, took place on Monday and Tuesday last. The contest, judging from the papers, is surely one of personal merit, all the candidates having lived with each other in plugging their adhesion to a single absorbing issue—that of "secession" from the Union in case of Mr. Lincoln's election.

Ex-Governor Lawrence, of Rhode Island, in a late letter to Gov. Sprague, suggests the possibility of a suspension of the appropriations by Congress for the support of the federal government, as a character of the